# ♣ THE TROLLDOM DOLL TECHNIQUE

WHAT TERRIBLE RAIN...
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THANK YOU, SENSEI.
I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE.
OH, DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA MATSUOKA-KUN?
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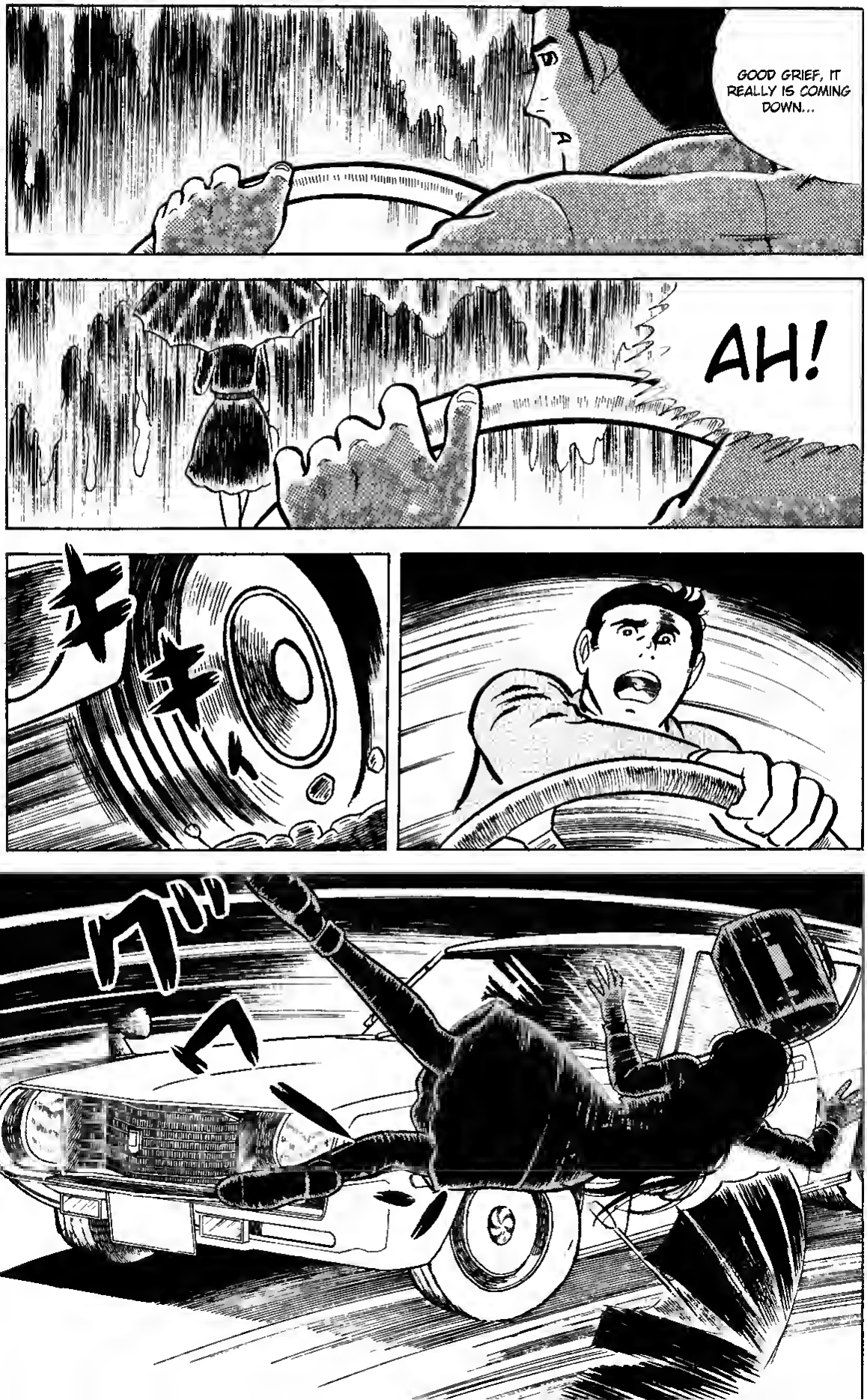
GOOD GRIEF, IT REALLY IS COMING DOWN...
AH!

THAT'S MISA KUROI-SAN, SHE'S IN MY CLASS!
SE... SENSEI!
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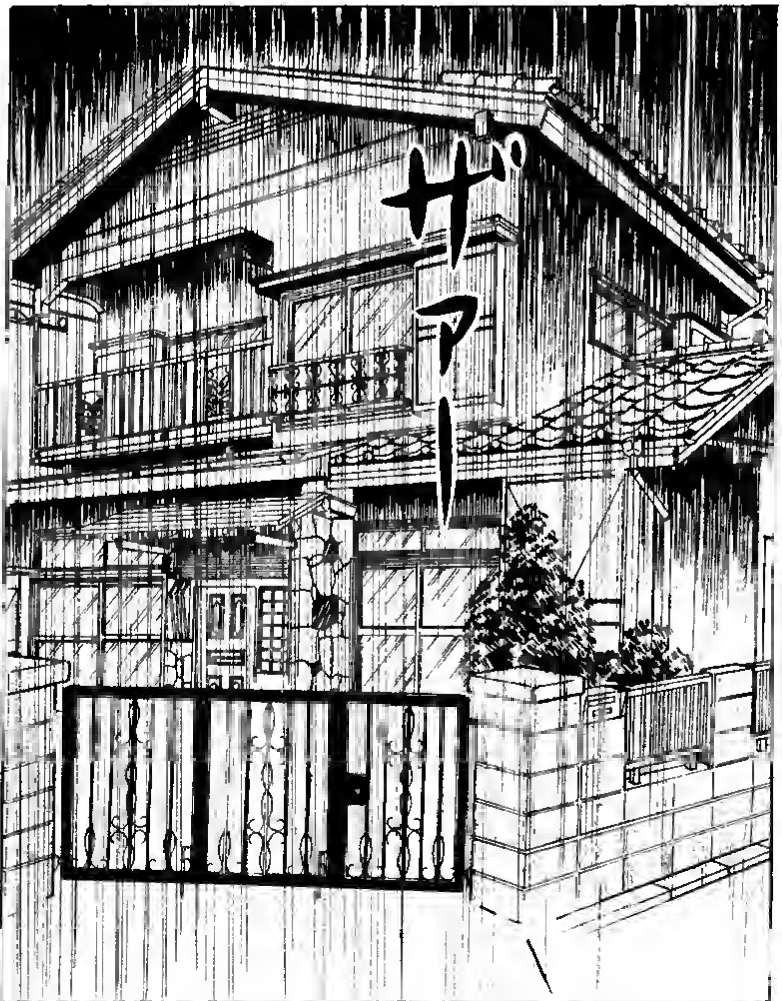
EH?!
H... HEY YOU!
KUROI-SAN!
B... BUT KUROI-SAN'S...!
QUICKLY, BACK IN THE CAR!
JUST GET BACK IN THE CAR ALREADY!
UUH, UH...

SHUT UP, JUST STAY QUIET!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND SENSEI?!
HAAH, HAAH.
THAT'S KUROI-SAN'S DOLL!
AH.
WE SHOULD THROW IT AWAY SOMEWHERE LATER...
IT MUST'VE GOTTEN CAUGHT DURING THE ACCIDENT...

I'M SORRY FOR SHOUTING AT YOU BACK THEN, MATSUOKA-KUN...

MM...
STILL, THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT...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AND THAT'S NOT ALL. I CAN EVEN HELP WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY, IS THAT IF YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT THAT LITTLE BUSINESS YESTERDAY, I'LL KEEP YOUR REPORT CARD AND TEST RESULTS JUST AS YOU'D LIKE THEM.
EH?
S... SURE...
WELL, MATSUOKA-KUN...?
...
I IMAGINE YOU KNOW TOO SENSEI, BUT FROM THE MOMENT SHE TRANSFERED HERE, SHE WAS ALWAYS CLUTCHING THAT DOLL...
THERE WAS SOMETHING CREEPY ABOUT THAT KUROI-SAN.
BUT I'M SCARED, SENSEI.

I THINK THAT KUROI-SAN COULD EVEN MOVE THAT DOLL IF SHE SO DESIRED...
WH... WHAT NONSENSE!
THAT DOLL MIGHT WELL HAVE HAD A SOUL WITHIN IT.
WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!
AH!
IT'S TRUE! SEVERAL DAYS AGO BACK WHEN WE HAD THE TEST...

LID
MY RUBBER ROLLED OVER THERE.
OH NO.
GUMI-CHAN, WOULD YOU GET THAT RUBBER FOR ME.
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WHAT A LOAD OF NONSENSE, IT'S JUST STUFFED WITH STRAW.
BUT I SAW IT MYSELF!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
STILL, SO LONG AS I GET RID OF THIS LAST BIT OF EVIDENCE, I'LL BE IN THE CLEAR.

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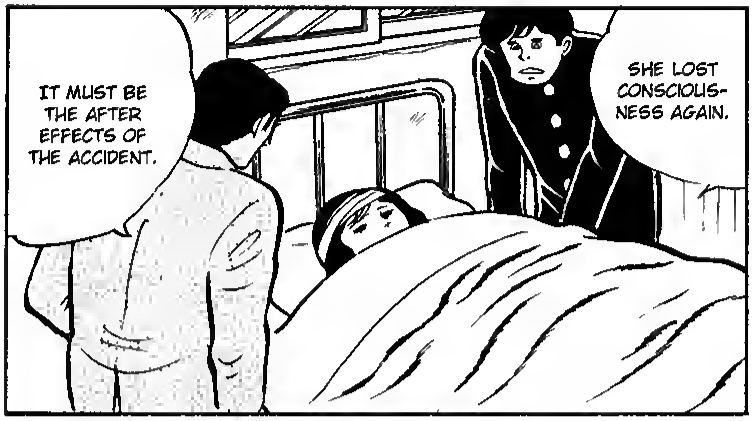
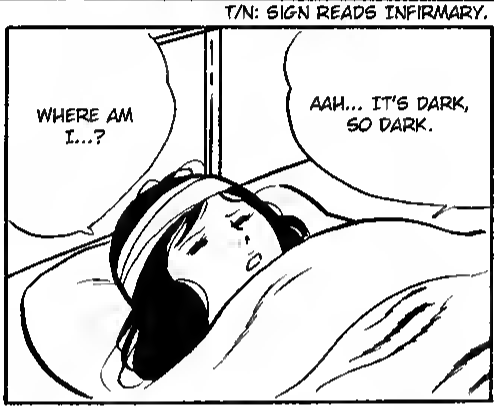
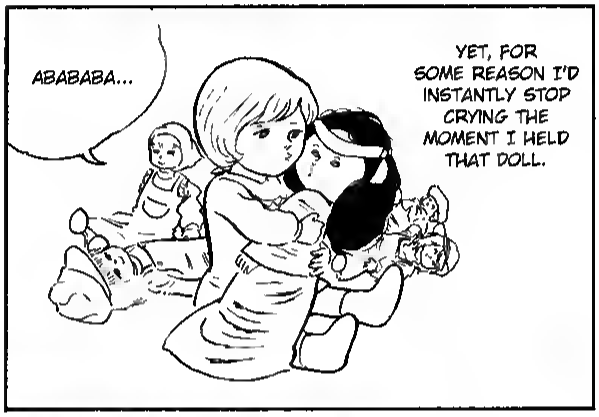
3—A
THE FOLLOW-ING DAY....
AH!
I GUESS THIS SHOWS SHE REALLY IS A CREEPY KID...
SHE'D SUFFERED A SEVERE WOUND AND YET...
AAH...
EH?
UUUH...

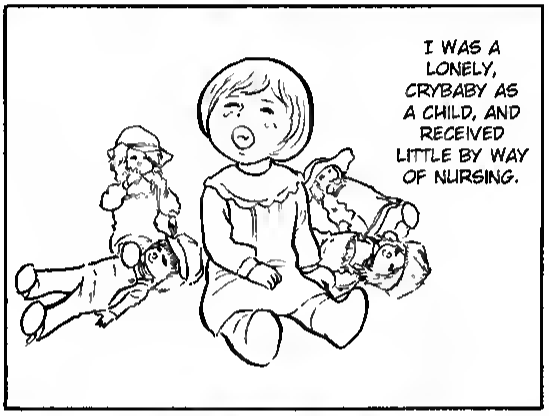


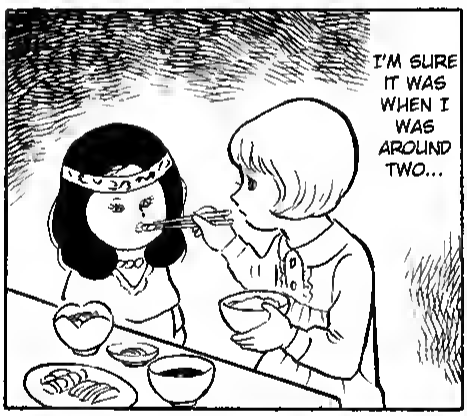
T/N: SIGN READS INFIRMARY.

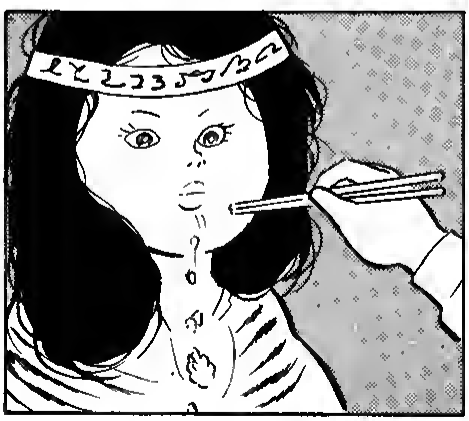


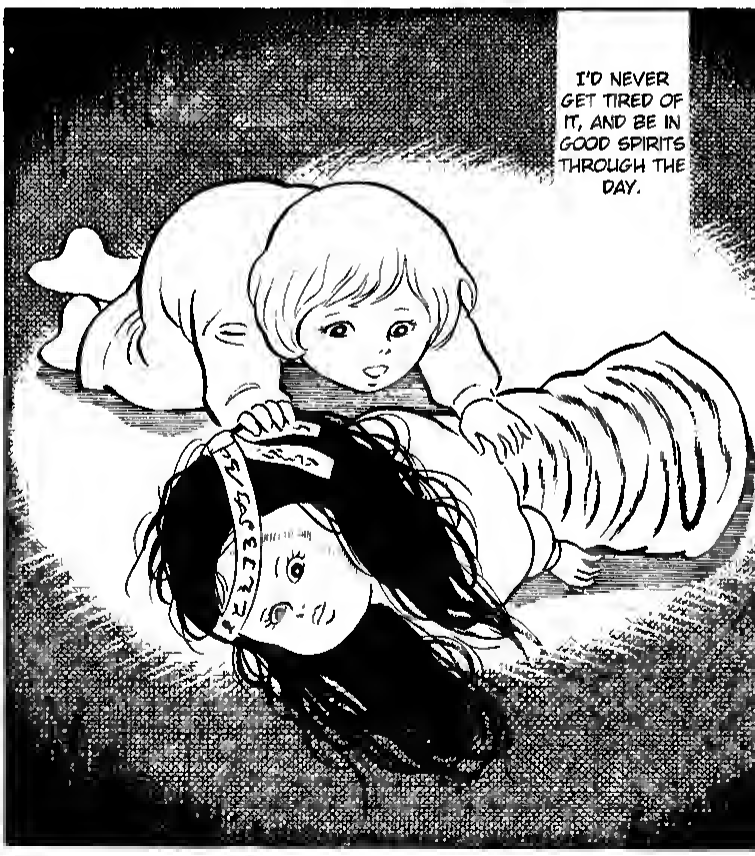
I'VE NEVER LET GO OF IT SINCE I WAS A BABY.
I JUST KNOW THAT I'VE LOST THAT PRECIOUS DOLL OF MINE.


ABABABA...
YET, FOR SOME REASON I'D INSTANTLY STOP CRYING THE MOMENT I HELD THAT DOLL.


I WAS A LONELY, CRYBABY AS A CHILD, AND RECEIVED LITTLE BY WAY OF NURSING.

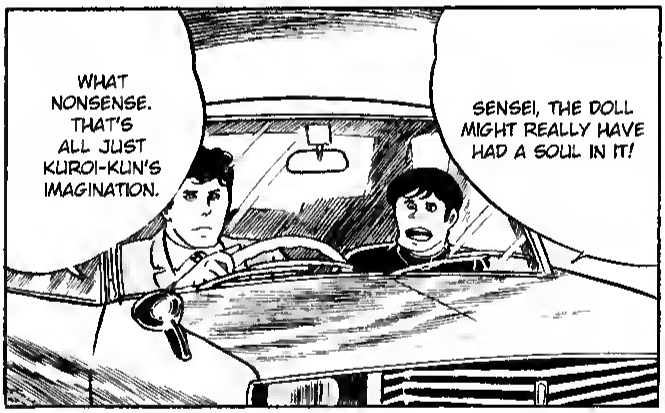

I'M SURE IT WAS WHEN I WAS AROUND TWO...

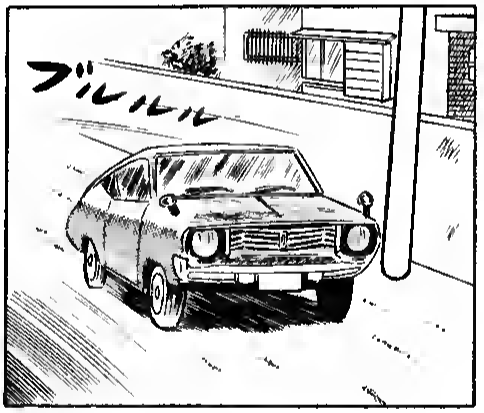



I'D NEVER GET TIRED OF IT, AND BE IN GOOD SPIRITS THROUGH THE DAY.

RELUCTANTLY, HE CAME UP WITH A WAY FOR IT TO EAT.
I TROUBLED MY FATHER OVER THE FACT THAT THE DOLL COULD NOT EAT FOOD.
YOU'RE A VERY MESSY EATER.
OH MY, OH MY. THERE'S NO HELPING YOU GUMI-CHAN.
FROM THEN ON I WAS ALL THE MORE AFFECTIONATE WITH THE DOLL.
AND HERE'S GUMI-CHAN'S.
HERE'S YOUR PRESENT.
PAPA AND MAMA TREATED THE DOLL AS DEARLY AS THEY TREATED ME.
WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE OTHER'S HEART.
IT'S FAIR TO SAY THEN, THAT SHE'S NOT JUST A NORMAL DOLL, BUT CLOSER TO A LITTLE SISTER.
MAMA WOULD MAKE MATCHING CLOTHES FOR US.

IN THE DREAM I HAD, THE DOLL WAS CRYING OUT TO ME...


WHAT NONSENSE. THAT'S ALL JUST KUROI-KUN'S IMAGINATION.
SENSEI, THE DOLL MIGHT REALLY HAVE HAD A SOUL IN IT!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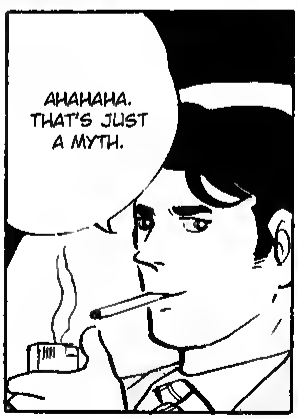
AHAHAHA. THAT'S JUST A MYTH.

THAT DOLL MAY BE POSSESSED BY THE SOUL OF A LOVED CHILD.
BUT IT'S SAID THAT THE HAIR OF THE CHRYSANTHEMUM DOLLS WHICH DECORATE HOKKAIDO'S BUDDHIST TEMPLES HAVE BEEN GROWING FOR 50 YEARS.

YOU SHOULD GET A COFFEE WHEN WE GET BACK TO MY HOUSE.
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING TOO WELL MATSUOKA.
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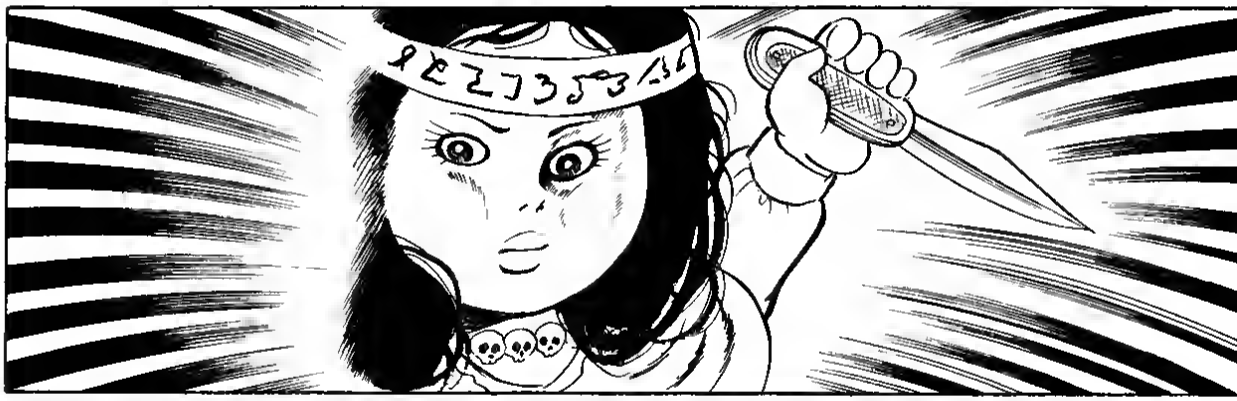
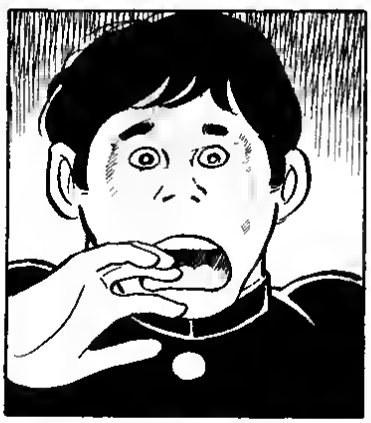
W... WHO DUG IT UP?!
THE BURIED DOLL!
AAH!
AAARGH... SENSEI, YOUR NECK...!
I... IT COULDN'T BE SENSEI!



YOU STILL DON'T SEEM TO BELIEVE IT, MATSUOKA-KUN.
TH... THE DOLL'S A KILLER...
WELL DONE, YOU STRUCK DOWN MY FOE.
IF YOU WANT PROOF THEN...
THE DOLL CAN UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS.

OHOHOHO!



EKO EKO
ZAMERAK!
EKO EKO
AZARAK!